

a connector coupled to the plunger below the top end, wherein the connector is configured to permit fluids to be moved upwardly through the connector and the plunger upon each downstroke of the plunger; and

A
1 a rod coupled to the connector, wherein the rod is translatable to reciprocate the
2 plunger within the pump barrel using an upstroke and a downstroke, and wherein the top end
3 of the plunger is adapted to direct particulate into the plunger and away from the pump barrel
4 upon each upstroke.

1 2. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the top end of cylinder is
inwardly tapered, and wherein the connector is disposed within the cylinder.

1 3. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the connector has at least one
2 through hole to permit fluids to be moved upwardly through the connector and the plunger
3 upon each downstroke of the plunger.

1 4. (As filed) A system as in claim 1, wherein the pump barrel has a bottom
2 end and a standing valve in the bottom end.

1 5. (Amended) A method for pumping fluids from the ground, the method
2 comprising:

3 placing a pumping system into the ground, wherein the pumping system
4 comprises a pump barrel, a plunger reciprocatably positioned within the pump barrel, wherein
5 the plunger has an open top end with a sharpened edge, a bottom end, and a traveling valve at
6 the bottom end, and a connector coupled to the plunger below the top end; and

7 reciprocating the plunger within the pump barrel with an upstroke and a
8 downstroke, and directing particulate into the plunger through the open top end and away from
9 the pump barrel upon each upstroke with the sharpened edge.

1 6. (As filed) A method as in claim 5, wherein the plunger comprises a
2 cylinder having an inwardly tapered open top end to direct particulate into the cylinder upon
3 each upstroke.

1 7. (As filed) A method as in claim 5, wherein the plunger has a traveling
2 valve at the bottom end, wherein the pump barrel has a standing valve at a bottom end such
3 that fluids are drawn into the pump barrel through the standing valve upon each upstroke and
4 are forced through the traveling valve upon each downstroke.